

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method for operating a bar code reader system having a first hand held bar code reader, a second hand held bar code reader and a host processor, wherein both of said readers have memories, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) querying with use of said host processor programming data of said first hand held reader;

(b) receiving said programming data at said host processor;

(c) encoding with use of said host processor at least one bar code symbol, said at least one bar code symbol being encoded such that when said at least one bar code symbol is read by said second hand held bar code reader, said programming data originally included in said memory of said first bar code reader is loaded into said memory of said second hand held bar code reader;

(d) outputting said at least one bar code symbol encoded at step (b); and

(e) reading using said second hand held bar code reader said at least one bar code symbol output at step (d) so that said second hand held bar code reader is reprogrammed.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said querying step includes the step of querying with use of a nonintegrated host processor, nonintegral with respect to said first hand held bar code reader reprogramming data of said first hand held bar code reader.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one bar code symbol is a single bar code symbol.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one bar code symbol is a series of bar code symbols.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one bar code symbol is a single two-dimensional bar code symbol.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said outputting step includes the step of displaying said at least one bar code symbol.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said outputting step includes the step of printing said at least one bar code symbol.

Claims 8 – 21 (Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer).